

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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1. approximately  
50 per cent of the members of the Union of Communists of Yugoslavia (SKJ) are Cominformists. Cominformists in Yugoslavia usually can be found among the more educated people, ideologically and politically. Most Cominformists are intellectuals, and represent, essentially, the hard core of Communism in Yugoslavia. They are hardened fighters and fanatic idealists. Tito's loyal followers are very much concerned about them.
2. Approximately 28,000 Cominformists have been arrested to date<sup>1</sup>, which is a relatively small number compared to the number still at liberty. There are Cominformists among the following groups:
  - a. Ministers of the republics and the central government;
  - b. Politburo members; and
  - c. Officials with important positions in the government and the SKJ.
3. Cominformists have changed their tactics completely. They do not talk in favor of the Cominform, they are inactive, and they have stopped criticizing the Tito regime. They keep silent, on specific instructions from Moscow, and are awaiting the right moment to carry out orders.
4. There are many Cominformists in the armed forces, particularly among high-ranking officers. In well-informed and reliable circles it is believed that all army units would disband in case of war because their officers would capitulate.
5. The UDB is aware of the existence of a great number of Cominformists among high-ranking officers. The officers are kept under close watch and will be arrested in the event of war. They are not being arrested now because Tito fears repercussions from the West, and because the wholesale arrest of army leaders would lower the morale of the whole army.

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6. Recently arrested Cominformists have been instructed by Moscow to "repent" in order to gain their freedom. Their convictions remain the same when they are freed, but they do not engage in any activity. The UDB is as vigilant as ever but fewer arrests are made because pro-Cominform activity has diminished.
7. An ideological rapprochement between Tito and Moscow is not considered likely. It is expected only that normal diplomatic relations will continue and that border incidents will decrease. Incidents on the Yugoslav-Rumanian and Yugoslav-Hungarian frontiers do not occur as frequently as reported in the Yugoslav press. The Government likes to publicize the slightest incident or disagreement, although many are provoked by the Yugoslav soldiers.
8. The SKJ has become a passive organization, although there are a number of members who are fanatically devoted to Titoism. Many serious and elderly members, however, are sorry that they ever joined it or fought for "liberation." They are trying by all means to break away from the SKJ or to be passive. They are trying especially to rectify their mistakes and their attitude towards the nationalists.
9. It is generally believed that the partisans who have remained faithful to Tito do not represent the fighting element they did during the last war. They are no longer accustomed to a hard life and have been spoiled by comfortable living. The fighting forces are currently represented by the Cominformists and by some nationalist circles.
10. Former Titoist partisans hope that America will defend them in case of any aggression. Yet, among themselves, they sneer at the United States as they did before the Cominform Resolution. They want to prove their political astuteness by cheating and exploiting the "naive" Americans.
11. Almost all industries which contribute to the military effort have been transferred to Bosnia and Herzegovina, as have large quantities of army equipment and some special military schools. The command of the Fourth Army has been removed from Novi Sad and almost all regular army units have been moved out of the Vojvodina. Only border patrols are left.
12. The Yugoslav army does not plan to defend the Vojvodina or Srem. There have been no fortifications built in these areas. All reserve officers formerly stationed or living in these areas are now stationed in Serbia. Sremska Mitrovica is the closest post to the Vojvodina where reserve officers are stationed. Party members tell the people that American tanks will defend this part of Yugoslavia in case of Soviet aggression, but the people do not believe it.
13. Tito's dictatorship is despised in Yugoslavia. Living conditions are extremely difficult and the cost of living is very high. Agriculture is on the decline because of various State-conducted experiments and also because of peasant sabotage. Drought also has inflicted losses. Government officials have become increasingly corrupt and wasteful.
14. The people remain passive to Tito's struggle with the Cominform because they will not support a regime they hate. Non-Communist reserve officers and noncommissioned officers say among themselves that, in the event of war, they will flee to the mountains with their arms. They contend that free elections, which Tito will never allow, would unmask his lies, because they would indicate the small number of followers he has among the people and in the armed forces.

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1.  Comment: During the Sixth Party Congress which took place in November 1952, Aleksandar Rankovic, a member of the SKJ Executive Committee, stated that from 1948 to November 1952, a total of 13,700 persons had been arrested for Cominformism. Of this number, he said that a total of 4,531 persons had been released.

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